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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SYRIANS SEE MIXED SIGNS FOR POLITICAL PROGRESS IN LEBANON

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM TOLD AMBASSADOR MURPHY JULY 15 THAT HE BELIEVED KEY LEBANESE, PALESTINIAN AND ARAB LEAGUE ELEMENTS WANT TO WORK SERIOUSLY TOWARD A SOLUTION. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ELABORATED:

--ONLY IRAQ AND LIBYA OPPOSED THE SYRIAN POSITION AT THE LATEST ARAB LEAGUE MEETING.

--THE CHRISTIANS ARE DEFINITELY READY FOR DIALOG.

--HOWEVER, JUMBLATT AND FACTIONS OF FATAH, THE PFLP
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AND THE PDFLP OPPOSE TALKS AND SEEK TO CONTINUE THE

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CRISIS.

IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HAYDAR ALSO EXPRESSED GUARDED OPTIMISM:

--THE CHRISTIANS BELIEVE MARONITE UNITY WOULD GIVE THEM AN ADVANTAGE AT THE BARGAINING TABLE.

--THE PALESTINIANS ARE TIRED OF FIGHTING AND NOW REALIZE THAT PLO MARXISTS SUCKED THEM TOO FAR INTO JUMBLATT'S LEFTIST COALITION AND INTO LEBANESE POLITICS.

--JALLUD MADE AN INITIAL CONTRIBUTION AS A MEDIATOR BUT HAS BECOME INEFFECTIVE.

--THE USSR, THE ONLY POWER OUTSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH STANDS TO GAIN BY CONTINUATION OF THE LEBANESE CRISIS, BLUNDERED IN ATTACKING SYRIAN EFFORTS. (SECRET) DAMASCUS 4640 AND 4639, 7/16.)

2. PERUVIAN CABINET RESIGNS

EMBASSY LIMA REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO AND THE ENTIRE CABINET RESIGNED JULY 16 FOR REASONS THAT REMAIN UNCLEAR. TIGHT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WERE TAKEN AS PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ NAMED A NEW GOVERNMENT HEADED BY GENERAL ARBULU GALLIANI. IN THE WEEK PRIOR TO ITS RESIGNATION, THE FERNANDEZ GOVERNMENT HAD:

--PROHIBITED ALL STRIKES AND REAFFIRMED ITS BAN ON POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND LABOR MEETINGS; AND

--FORCEABLY RETIRED GENERAL BOBBIO, COMMANDER OF THE MILITARY INSTRUCTION CENTER, FOR ALLEGED REBELLION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: AT ITS END, THE FERNANDEZ GOVERNMENT FOUND POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY AT ITS NADIR AND FACED CONSIDERABLE DISCONTENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES OVER THE BOBBIO INCIDENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) LIMA 6444 AND 6536; (UNCLASSIFIED) LIMA 6534, 7/16.)

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3. FRANCE: GISCARD ONE-UPS THE SOVIETS

EMBASSY PARIS QUOTES AN UNNAMED ELYSEE SOURCE AS CLAIMING THAT GISCARD ANNOUNCED THE FRANCO-SOVIET ACCIDENTAL NUCLEAR USE ACCORD, WITH NO ADVANCE WARNING TO THE SOVIETS, AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR KOSYGIN WOULD NOT COME TO PARIS AND OTHER EFFORTS TO CELEBRATE THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF DE GAULLE'S

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MOSCOW TRIP HAD FAILED. GISCARD DESIRED:

--TO SHOW THE FRENCH PUBLIC THE SOVIETS TAKE FRENCH NUCLEAR FORCES SERIOUSLY;

--TO DEMONSTRATE HE CAN DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE SOVIETS AS WELL AS WITH HIS ATLANTIC PARTNERS; AND

--TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE AGREEMENT, BECAUSE, THE SOURCE INSISTED, FRANCE HAD NO INTENTION OF CARRYING THE BILATERAL NUCLEAR DIALOGUE ANY FURTHER.

THE RESULT, SAYS THE EMBASSY, WAS SOME "BAD MOMENTS," SUBSEQUENTLY PATCHED UP WITH GROMYKO.

EMBASSY COMMENT: RECENT WEEKS HAVE BEEN UNCOMFORTABLE FOR BOTH SIDES. GISCARD'S BOLD ANNOUNCEMENT MAY HAVE PERSUADED THE KREMLIN THAT TIFFING WITH THE FRENCH SHOULD NOT GO SO FAR AS TO ENDANGER THE RELATIONSHIP. GISCARD HAS ALSO IMPROVED HIS IMAGE AS A LEADER, THOUGH PERHAPS NOT SO MUCH AS THE ELYSEE MIGHT HAVE WISHED. (SECRET) PARIS 20929 (EXDIS), 7/16.)

4. POLAND: PRICE RISE DEBACLE SHAKES LEADERSHIP CONFIDENCE

A MEMBER OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE TOLD AMBASSADOR DAVIES JULY 14 THAT THE WORST CONSEQUENCE OF THE JUNE PRICE RISE DEBACLE WAS NOT THE CHAOTIC ECONOMIC SITUATION BUT THE DEFENSIVENESS AND LOSS OF SELF-CONFIDENCE IT HAD PRODUCED IN THE LEADERSHIP. THE PARTY LEADER, A FERVENT SUPPORTER OF GREATER DEMOCRACY FOR POLAND, COMMENTED FURTHER:

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--THE DEBACLE RESULTED FROM THE LEADERSHIP'S "ARROGANCE OF POWER."

--WESTERN BANKERS AND BUSINESSMEN NOW VIEW POLAND WITH MISTRUST.

--"YOUR GOVERNMENT MUST NOT TURN ITS BACK ON US NOW, OR WE WILL SLIP BACK INTO SOME FORM OF GOMULKAISM."

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I TOLD HIM THE USG WAS WELL AWARE OF THE DISTASTEFUL ALTERNATIVE POLAND WOULD CONFRONT IF IT SHOULD BE UNABLE TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE WEST. (CONFIDENTIAL) WARSAW 4955 (LIMDIS), 7/16.) KISSINGER

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